



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Environmental Center

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HB 467

RELATING TO ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Public Hearing, February 4, 1999
8:30 a.m., Room 312, State Capitol

By

John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center

HB 467 would amend Chapters 46 and 264, HRS, to reduce use of herbicides by state and county agencies in the maintenance of public roadways. Roadside spraying would be halved over a period of three years.

Our Statement on this measure does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

This measure differs only slightly from the bill considered earlier this morning. Its major distinctions lie in broader applicability (i.e., to both state and county agencies) and somewhat different definitions of "nonchemical methods."

We tend to prefer the more general definition of nonchemical methods in HB 392, although either one would work.

The most significant difference lies in the applicability of the two measures. Here we have a strong preference for a measure that requires adaptation by both state and county agencies. It seems counterproductive to provide only partial relaxation of pesticide application. Already Hawaii County has undertaken extensive pilot programs in this area, and given that more miles of highway are under county than state jurisdiction, it seems reasonable to maximize benefits to the environment by including all levels of government.